

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 5 and 27-31 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 are amended. Claims 2-4 and 6-26 are canceled. Claims 27-31 are new. Support for the claim amendments and new claims 27-31 may be found at least, for example, in the specification as originally filed at page 7, paragraphs 2 and 4; page 9, paragraph 2; page 14, paragraphs 2 and 4; and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Chandler (US Patent 5,468,648). Claims 2-3 are canceled, therefore this rejection is moot with respect to claims 2-3.

Claim 1 requires an assay device for detecting an analyte in a liquid sample. The device comprises a nitrocellulose strip, which is substantially opaque in a dry state and translucent when contacted by the liquid sample. The nitrocellulose strip has an upper surface, a lower surface, and a line printed or deposited on the lower surface. In use, the liquid sample contacts and migrates along the nitrocellulose strip. The line is visible to a user when the nitrocellulose strip is translucent. The line on the nitrocellulose of claim 1 indicates, for example, that a sufficient amount of liquid sample has contacted the assay device. The line may be more definitive than a control line, as the line can be disposed parallel to the direction of sample flow without diminishment, since the line need not be formed by an immunoreaction.

Chandler describes a device comprising a first opposable component including at least one chromatographic medium, and a second opposable component including an absorber. Chandler does not disclose or suggest a device with a nitrocellulose strip having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a line printed or deposited on the lower surface, as required by claim 1. Thus, Chandler does not disclose or suggest every limitation of independent claim 1 and the claims dependent thereto.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Agent would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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